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Dodd Calls for Senate Study on Nicaragua

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The Reagan administration is "breaking the law" by supporting paramilitary groups against Nicaragua, and the Senate should meet in secret to study the alleged violations, Sen. Christopher J. Dodd (D-Conn.) said yesterday.

"The events of Central America are reaching the point where I think it becomes extremely important that we have that kind of a session for the entire Senate so we can find out exactly what our government is doing, who we are supporting, how far we intend to go," he said.

Allegations have surfaced in recent weeks that forces fighting the leftist government of Nicaragua have been aided largely by the United States. Congress has banned U.S. financing for any effort to topple the Sandinista government by

force. The Reagan administration, questioned for weeks about the allegations, has said nothing to discourage speculation that it is behind the insurgency.

But State Department spokesman Alan Romberg has said any administration activity in Central America is legal.

Dodd, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, also charged that the administration is emphasizing military solutions in Central America and that is creating tensions the administration may some day use to justify sending U.S. troops.

In an interview on "Face the Nation" (CBS, WDM), he said Congress probably would not support any commitment of U.S. military forces to Central America.

"The administration, I think, would

probably then try to create a scenario where we had to intervene militarily, using U.S. forces because an ally was under attack," he said. "That's exactly the kind of scenario that becomes more feasible, more likely, with the pursuance of the current administration policy. We're going to inflame that entire region."

Asked whether the Reagan administration was deliberately putting the United States in a position where it would send troops, Dodd said, "I think they're certainly, indirectly creating that situation."

Instead of using force, Dodd said, the United States should work to solve the social, economic and political problems that he said cause much of the unrest in Central America.